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The Expansion of England (1500-1870). By WILLIAM HARRISON WOODWARD. The Cambridge Press Series for Schools and Training Colleges. Pp. x, 376, with seven maps. Price, 4s. Cambridge: University Press, 1899.

This short history of British expansion is announced as prepared for the Queen's Scholarship Examination, 1900. While creditable as a book of its sort, one can but feel that attention to it should come rather from the subject with which it deals than otherwise. New industrial conditions, with the revival of interest in colonial questions in Germany, France, England and latterly in the United States, have created a new demand for such works as the one under review. English historians have long found their chosen field in internal development or continental relations, to the neglect of the empire. Mr. Woodward laments that Englishmen are still so phlegmatic in dealing with the story of their great dominion, and pertinently says that if Germany had England's history, imperial affairs would occupy a central position in the scheme of national education. We are reminded that it was reserved to an American—Captain Mahan—first to interpret to Englishmen their own history; but, in a larger sense, the tendencies of the closing quarter of the century have thrown new light on industrial, commercial and colonial affairs. A new interest has been aroused attended by a goodly number of works on colonial subjects.

Our author distinguishes between a manual and a text-book, the former merely furnishing information, while the latter is declared to have the threefold purpose of stimulating to further inquiry, of guiding to the classification of material, and shaping conclusions about this same material. If in addition to furnishing a certain minimum of information, a text-book would meet these other requirements, it would be a consummation for which teachers of history in schools and colleges would render most sincere thanks, but unfortunately the work under review fails when tried by the standard of its author. He has written with a good knowledge of his subject, and has told the story simply and compactly, but he leaves the impression that the story is told. The work has the *ex cathedra* characteristic of the average historical text-book. In the opening there is furnished a brief list of recommended books, but aside from this there is scarcely an indication of the existence of other works on the subject. There is also a sad lack of that broader point of view which sees different explanations and interpretations of events, and which, as all teachers know, stimulates interest and directs students to other works dealing with the subject.

Mr. Woodward's book is a manual of information, well

digested and arranged in an orderly fashion. It would seem admirably suited to one who wished to obtain in brief compass, the narrative of the empire from the beginning, of the sixteenth, to the latter part of the nineteenth century. In contrast, it occupies the middle ground between Besant's "Rise of the Empire," and Story's "The Building of the British Empire." Indeed were it a little livelier in style it might well supplant the latter two-volume work, in the "Story of the Nations" series. Although there is an absence of foot-notes or references, one traces among others Mahan's "Influence of the Sea Power Upon History," Egerton's "Short History of the British Colonial Policy," Corbett's "Drake and the Tudor Navy," Lucas' "Historical Geography of British Colonies," and Lecky's "England in the Eighteenth Century," but it is to be regretted that in the body of the work there is lack of acknowledgment of and direction to these more important treatments.

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